

Listing of Claims:

1-81. (Canceled)

239
82.

(New) An on-line postage system for processing of user requests and obtaining postage indicia comprising:

one or more client systems configured to interface with one or more users, said one or more client systems configured to send a postage request and to print postage indicia;

a server system in communication with said one or more client systems, said server system in communication with one or more postal service systems, wherein said server system is configured to receive said postage request from said one or more client systems and to send postage indicia data to said one or more client systems; and

administrator system software executing on one or more computers, said administrator system software in communication with said server system, said administrator system software comprising a statistical analysis report module configured to provide one or more reports about user transactions.

240
83.

(New) The on-line postage system of claim 82, wherein each of said one or more users has an associated financial status, and wherein said administrator system software further comprises:

a user financial information module configured to facilitate reviewing and monitoring the financial status of said one or more users.

241
84. (New) The on-line postage system of claim 82, wherein said server system comprises a license database, and wherein said administrator system software further comprises:

a license database access module configured to facilitate access to said license database and review of, for each of said one or more users, the status of a license issued by a postal service authority.

242
85. (New) The online postage system of claim 82, wherein said server system provides information to said one or more postal service systems as one or more flat files, and wherein said administrator system software further comprises:

Rule
126
243
86. (New) The on-line postage system of claim 82, wherein said administrator system software further comprises:
a flat file access module configured to facilitate review of information in said flat files.

244
87. (New) The on-line postage system of claim 82, wherein said administrator system software further comprises:

a system access security module configured to secure communication between said server system and said administrator system software .

244
87. (New) The on-line postage system of claim 82, wherein said client system and said server system each comprises an internet access module configured to facilitate communication between said client system and said server system over the internet.

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88. (New) The on-line postage system of claim 82, wherein said administrator system software and said server system each comprises an internet access module configured to facilitate communication between said administrator system software and said server system over the internet.

246
89. (New) An on-line postage system for processing of user requests and obtaining postage indicia comprising:

one or more client systems configured to interface with one or more users, said one or more client systems configured to send a postage request and to print postage indicia;

a server system in communication with said one or more client systems, said server system in communication with one or more postal service systems, wherein said server system is configured to receive said postage request from said one or more client systems and to send postage indicia data to said one or more client systems;

wherein said server system comprises:

a database comprising stored account information of said one or more users;

a user account interface module configured to respond to an account request received from a given client system by retrieving a portion of said stored account information that is associated with a respective user of said given client system and providing said portion to said given client system.

247
90. (New) An on-line postage system for processing of user requests and obtaining postage indicia comprising:

one or more client systems configured to interface with one or more users, said one or more client systems configured to send a postage request and to print postage indicia;

a server system in communication with said one or more client systems, wherein said server system is configured to receive said postage request from said one or more client systems and to send postage indicia data to said one or more client systems;

wherein said server system comprises:

a postal service interface module for interfacing with one or more postal service systems;

a statistical reports module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said statistical reports module configured to provide reports associated with usage of said on-line postage system by said one or more users.

248
91. (New) The on-line postage system of claim 90, wherein said server system further comprises:

a flat files module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said flat files module configured to transform postage system data into flat files for transmission to said one or more postal service systems.

249
92.

(New) The on-line postage system of claim 90, wherein said server system further comprises:

a data update interface module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said data update interface module facilitating updating of postage rate information on said server system by said one or more postal service systems.

250
93.

(New) The on-line postage system of claim 90, wherein said server system further comprises:

a data update interface module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said data update interface module facilitating updating of zip code information on said server system by said one or more postal service systems.

Rule
126

251
94.

(New) The on-line postage system of claim 90, wherein said server system further comprises:

a utility module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said utility module providing an interface with a user activity monitoring module.

252
95.

(New) The on-line postage system of claim 90, wherein said server system further comprises:

a utility module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said utility module providing an interface with an archiving module.

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96. (New) The on-line postage system of claim 90, wherein said server system further comprises:

a utility module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said utility module providing an interface with a report generating module configured to provide reports of transactions in said on-line postage system.

~~254~~
97. (New) The on-line postage system of claim 90, wherein said server system further comprises a financial interfaces module configured to facilitate a transaction between said server system and a financial system having a postal service account, said transaction comprising information associated with a transfer of funds from a user account to said postal service account.

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98. (New) The on-line postage system of claim 90, wherein said server system further comprises a server access security module configured to manage and restrict access to said server system.

256
99.

(New) A method for providing an on-line postage system comprising:
receiving, at a server system, one or more postage requests from one or more
client systems configured to interface with one or more users, said one or more client
systems configured to print postage indicia;
sending postage indicia data to said one or more client systems in response to said
one or more postage requests; and
in administrator system software executing on one or more computers, generating
a report comprising information about said one or more postage requests.

257
100.

Rule 126
(New) The method of claim 99, further comprising, in said administrator
system software:

reviewing and monitoring the financial status of said one or more users.

258
101.

(New) The method of claim 99, further comprising, in said administrator
system software:

reviewing the respective status of one or more licenses issued to said one or more
users by a postal service authority.

259
102.

(New) The method of claim 99, further comprising:
providing, in said server system, information to one or more postal service
systems as one or more flat files; and
reviewing, in said administrator system software, information from said flat files.

260
103. (New) The method of claim 99, further comprising:
providing secure communication between said server system and said
administrator system software.

261
104. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein receiving said postage request
comprises communicating with said one or more client systems over the internet.

262
105. (New) The method of claim 99, further comprising:
providing communication between said administrator system software and said
server system over the internet.

Rule 126 *263*
106. (New) A method for providing an on-line postage system comprising:
receiving, at a server system, a postage request from one or more client systems
configured to interface with one or more users, said one or more client systems
configured to print postage indicia;
sending said postage indicia to said one or more client systems in response to said
postage request;
receiving an account request from a given client system; and
responding to said account request by retrieving from a database a portion of
stored account information that is associated with a respective user of said given client
system; and
providing said portion to said given client system.

264
107. (New) A method for providing an on-line postage system comprising:
receiving, at a server system, a postage request from one or more client systems
configured to interface with one or more users, said one or more client systems
configured to print postage indicia;
sending said postage indicia to said one or more client systems in response to said
postage request;
providing an interface to one or more postal service systems; and
providing one or more reports associated with usage of said on-line postage
system by said one or more users, said reports accessible by said one or more postal
service systems through said interface.

Rule 128 *265*
108. (New) The method of claim 107, further comprising:
transforming postage system data into flat files for transmission to said one or
more postal service systems.

266
109. (New) The method of claim 107, further comprising:
said one or more postal service systems updating postage rate information on said
server system.

267
110. (New) The method of claim 107, further comprising:
said one or more postal service systems updating zip code information on said
server system.

268

111. (New) The method of claim 107, further comprising:

providing said one or more postal service systems with an interface to a user activity monitoring module on said server system.

269

112. (New) The method of claim 107, further comprising:

providing said one or more postal service systems with an interface to an archiving module on the server system.

270

113. (New) The method of claim 107, further comprising:

providing said one or more postal service systems with an interface to a report generating module on said server system, said report generating module configured to provide reports of transactions in said on-line postage system.

Rule
124

271

114. (New) The method of claim 107, further comprising said server system

exchanging information with a financial system having a postal service account, said information associated with a transfer of funds from a user account to said postal service account.

272

115. (New) The method of claim 107, further comprising:

managing and restricting access to said server system by said one or more postal service systems.